



# Army Family Action Plan (AFAP)



*Team Baumholder - Home of Champions*

Army Family Action Plan  
February 17 – 18, 2010  
Rheinlander Convention Center





# Medical & Dental



*Team Baumholder - Home of Champions*

**Spokesperson: Ami Hicks**





# Medical & Dental



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## **TITLE: Downrange Dental Care Availability**

**SCOPE:** While deployed, Soldiers experience a lack of dental care, including routine check-ups and minor dental procedures (i.e. filling cavities). This lack of care results in a large number of Soldiers that develop extensive dental conditions as evidenced by the number of Soldiers who must attend dental appointments following their redeployment. As a result, upon returning to garrison, the already understaffed dental clinics expend time and resources trying to correct the issues that developed downrange and worsened with a lack of dental care. This creates a strain on the staff and a lack of resources which, in turn, prohibits dependents from receiving care on-post.



Issue #1



# Medical & Dental



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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Appoint a dental professional on the Combat Logistic Patrols (CLP) to provide a continuous mode of dental support for Soldiers, regardless of their geographic location and/or combat zone.
2. Establish policies and/or procedures to allow a Soldier access for invasive dental procedures that cannot be provided via mobile dental check-ups to the nearest Level 3 facility.



Issue #1, cont.



# Medical & Dental



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## **TITLE: Department of Defense Health Care Standardization**

**SCOPE:** Army Families are experiencing difficulty in obtaining standardized care across the Department of Defense. Difficulties arise when Family Members and Soldiers seek services at non-Army facilities, due to their geographic location, and later find out that the services provided do not suffice for Army regulated processes. Additionally, the level of care received varies (including medication distribution) when seeking care at other branch facilities. This lack of continuity of care causes both undue stress and unnecessary hardship on both Family Members and Soldiers.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Establish a standardized SOP for all branches across the Department of Defense.
- Ensure that all Department of Defense (DoD) medical providers can access the records of all DoD ID card holders.



Issue #2



# Medical & Dental



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## **TITLE: OCONUS EFMP SCREENINGS**

**SCOPE:** Army Families are experiencing difficulty in obtaining timely and accurate information regarding their dependents EFMP screening information prior to their arrival at their OCONUS duty station. Due to this lack of information and support, Soldiers frequently arrive at their duty station without their dependents as evidenced by the number of Soldiers seeking services through various agencies on-post, including the battalion S1s. This process can be lengthy. This lack of timely and accurate information for dependent screenings causes undue stress on both Soldiers and Family Members, thus affecting mission readiness.



Issue #3



# Medical & Dental



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## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Ensure all Soldiers with dependents are provided a mandatory briefing regarding the EFMP screening process and the required paperwork prior to graduation from Advanced Individual Training, One Station Unit Training, and Officer's Basic Course, etc.
2. Ensure that all Soldiers enrolling dependents into DEERS be provided with an EFMP screening information packet.
3. Create a multi-layer approach to mandatory distribution of the EFMP screening information to Soldiers and spouses including initial entry training, AIT, DEERS, and lastly the S1 shop at both the losing and gaining unit.
4. Establish an electronic medium of information (i.e. Army EFMP website) for spouses and Soldiers to access regarding the procedures associated with completing the EFMP screening. This website should include specific information pertaining to individual installations and their EFMP contact information, screening sites, etc.

Issue #3, cont.





# Top 5 Valuable Services



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## **Group Name: Medical and Dental**

1. Outdoor Recreation
2. Army Community Service
3. Child Youth and School Services
4. Commissary
5. CMR







# Teen Group



*Team Baumholder - Home of Champions*

**Spokesperson: Ryan Whitcomb & Christy Williams**





# Teens



*Team Baumholder - Home of Champions*

## **TITLE: Activity Bus Transportation Options for students**

**SCOPE:** There are very limited off-post transportation options for those who want and need transportation to and from inter and intra post activities. A good, effective, off-post transportation system would increase quality of life for students by giving access to additional extra curricular activities, increase product and service availability, and improve integration between schools within the district.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Establish subsidized activity bus services, with a monthly pass option, to outlying towns to take students home after activities; provide shuttle service to other area installations.





# Teens



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**TITLE:** Quality information access for teens /Standardized teen briefings

**SCOPE:** Community information methods and access are limited and need to be directed towards teens. Teens want to be involved in communication and to have briefings on current issues and trends throughout the military and civilian community. Readily accessible, accurate and current information such as SAEDA and sexual assault would decrease frustration, reduce or eliminate rumors, and relieve stress and tension.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Establish a Teen CIB in correlation with Teen Town Hall meetings by assembly. Establish a Facebook account. E-mail the daily bulletins to students. Regularly update Baumholder web page.



Issue #2



# Benefits & Entitlements



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**Spokesperson: James White**





# Benefits & Entitlements



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## **TITLE: Single Pregnant Soldiers Are Forced to Live in Barracks until the Birth of Her Child**

### **SCOPE:**

Below is the excerpt from AR 420-1 para 3-14 d. (5).

“Pregnant military personnel (with no other members) will not be assigned to Family housing until the birth of the child”.

The current regulation requires the Soldier to stay in the barracks until the birth of her child. Since she has not been authorized quarters, the Soldier and her baby then depart the hospital with no home to go to. This puts stress on both the mother and the Chain of Command.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. The regulation should be changed to allow pregnant single Soldiers to obtain Family housing at least by their 5th month of pregnancy (end of the second trimester).

Issue #1





# Benefits & Entitlements



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**TITLE: Utility Entitlements OCONUS should be based on number of dependents**

**SCOPE:** Below is the excerpt from AR 420-1:

“Military personnel with dependents are forced to survive off of utilities based on a flat rate”. The current regulation states that Soldiers with multiple dependents living off-post are to receive the same utility rate as a Soldier with one dependent. A larger Family should not be expected to survive off of the same utility rate as a smaller Family. This puts a financial burden on Families with multiple dependents residing off-post.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The regulation should be changed to allow military Families to receive utility entitlements based on a tier system per number of dependents as opposed to a flat rate.



Issue #2



# Benefits & Entitlements



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**TITLE:** Meal Card Deductions Are Automatically Deducted Regardless of Utilization of Dining Facilities.

**SCOPE:** Below is the excerpt from USAREUR Policy 37-3, AR 600-38. {Single Soldiers and Soldiers who are geographically single in the rank of E-5 and below are required to have meal deductions taken out of their pay}.

Soldiers are getting charged meal deductions regardless of whether they utilize the dining facility. This restricts Soldiers in having a choice of where and what they eat, or they incur extra costs.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Change the USAREUR policy so that Soldiers will only be charged for meals that they eat in the dining facility i.e. the “pay as you go” system.





# Consumer Group



*Team Baumholder - Home of Champions*

**Spokesperson: Bill Schroeder**







# Consumer Group



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## **TITLE: “AAFES and the Consumers’ Needs”**

**SCOPE:** Currently AAFES is out of touch with their core consumer base. This is evident in the lack of personnel during peak hours, long turn around time for products, and poor quality of service. The lack of timely services and poorly trained staff causes undue stress on Families and Soldiers.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Train and enforce employment standards to enhance professionalism
2. Adjust work hours to meet the needs of consumers
3. Standardize and post time frame for products or services rendered
4. Enforce “Soldiers First Policy”



Issue #1



# Consumer Group



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## **TOPIC: “Programs for Geographical Bachelors and Bachelorettes”**

**SCOPE:** Geographical bachelors and bachelorettes have no programming in terms of support groups or demographic specific MWR opportunities. This specific group is included in BOSS plans, but many of these soldiers do not feel comfortable participating in singles events, and are not invited to couples events or organizations. The result is a group of soldiers who feel out of place, under represented, and often have troubles assimilating into their units.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Institute MWR trips geared towards geographically separated soldiers and to include single parents
2. Create support groups for geographically separated soldiers through ACS



Issue #2



# Consumer Group



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## **TITLE: “JAG Limitations”**

**SCOPE:** Soldiers experience limited legal assistance due to JAG lawyers individual state licensing and specialties. Many civilian legal issues are unable to be addressed by military attorneys. The result is large out of pocket expenses for the Soldier, and significant stress on the soldier and their family.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Institute an Inter-Military Referral Program to incorporate the state licensing and legal specialty
2. Revise AR 27-10 to include a reimbursement program for civilian legal fees



Issue #3



# Top 5 Valuable Services



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## **Group Name: Consumer Group**

1. Army Community Service
2. Child Youth and School Services
3. Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR)
4. Commissary
5. Medical Care





# Family Support Group



*Team Baumholder - Home of Champions*

**Spokesperson: Todd Tribby**





# Family Support Group



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## **TITLE: OCONUS In-Processing and Family Travel.**

**SCOPE:** The Total Army Sponsorship Program, AR 600-8-8, has been more specifically tailored to fit the needs of Soldiers PCSing from CONUS to CONUS; however, it neglects to thoroughly address PCSing OCONUS. Additionally the SGATE site fails to function properly and personnel do not receive a sponsor until after arriving overseas if they received one at all.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Publish a change to AR 600-8-8 tailored specifically to PCSing overseas.
2. In order to streamline the sponsor program, sponsorship should be established as a permanent position, rather than an additional duty.





# Family Support Group



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**TITLE:** Preference policies for Child Care slots of full-time college student parent.

**SCOPE:** Spouses who pursue higher education during deployments are not able to gain any preference for full time child care slots according to CYSS policy. Spouses are finally able to use the post 9-11 GI Bill benefits are limited by the lack of available full time childcare slots.

Topic: CDC to offer full time student Spouses employment status childcare.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Change policy so full time (12 credit hours) student parents are given the same priority preference as employed parents.



Issue #2



# Top 5 Valuable Services



*Team Baumholder - Home of Champions*

## Group Name: Family Support Group

1. Army Community Service
2. Commissary
3. CMR & Post Office
4. Child Dispensary Centers
5. Outdoor Recreation & FMWR







# The End



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